

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A bridging clutch for a hydrodynamic torque converter, said bridging  
2 clutch comprising:  
3                 a first converter component having a first friction area; and  
4                 a friction lining carrier carrying a first friction lining, wherein said first  
5 friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection by means  
6 of an engaging movement and can be separated by means of a disengaging movement,  
7 said first friction lining having a radially inner side provided with at least one radially  
8 inward facing first opening with an inflow area and an outflow area for the passage of  
9 transport medium, each said first opening being open continuously between said inflow  
10 area and said outflow area.
- 1           2.     A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has  
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said  
3 recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape and dimensions.
- 1           3.     A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has  
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said  
3 recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape, but having  
4 smaller dimensions than the opening.
- 1           4.     A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second  
2 converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a

3 second friction lining and being situated axially between said first and second converter  
4 components so that second friction lining and said second friction area can be shifted  
5 into working connection by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by  
6 means of said disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner  
7 side provided with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area  
8 and an outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening  
9 being open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area, each said  
10 second opening being axially aligned with a respective said first opening, said carrier  
11 having at least one recess which forms a flow connection between respective said first  
12 and second openings.

1 5. A bridging clutch as in claim 4 wherein each said recess is located  
2 within a circumferential area over which the respective said openings extend.

1 6. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier is  
2 free of interruptions in an area over which each opening extends.

1 7. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second  
2 converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a  
3 second friction lining which is axially opposed from said first friction lining, wherein said  
4 second friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection  
5 by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by means of said  
6 disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner side provided  
7 with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area and an

8 outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening being  
9 open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area.

1           8.     A bridging clutch as in claim 7 wherein said friction lining carrier has  
2 an annular shape with an inner circumference, each said first opening being axially  
3 aligned with a respective said second opening and being shaped and dimensioned as  
4 the axially aligned second opening, whereby a flow connection is established between  
5 the openings at said inner circumference of said carrier.

1           9.     A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein each said opening in the  
2 friction lining has a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite  
3 circumferential directions from a crest point to said inflow area and said outflow area,  
4 wherein the friction lining does not have a radial boundary for the opening on the  
5 radially inner side of the outer contour of the opening.

1           10.    A bridging clutch as in claim 9 wherein said friction lining carrier has  
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said  
3 recess having a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite  
4 circumferential directions, wherein the friction lining carrier does not have a radial  
5 boundary for the opening on the radially inner side of the outer contour of the recess.

1           11.    A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the radially outer contour of  
2 each said recess is essentially coincident with the radially outer contour of the  
3 respective opening.

1                   12.    A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the crest point of the  
2   radially outer contour of each said opening in the friction lining is radially outside of the  
3   crest point of the respective recess in the friction lining carrier.

1                   13.    A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the opening in each said  
2   lining is circumferentially larger than the opening in the respective said recess.

1                   14.    A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the radially outer contour of  
2   each said opening terminates at its inflow and outflow area at the same radial points as  
3   the outer contour of the respective said recess terminates at its inflow and outflow area.